

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Nita Lowey,  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations  
and Related Programs  
Room HB-26, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger,  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations  
and Related Program  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We are writing to express our sincere appreciation for your longstanding leadership in providing funding for basic education programs, and we urge you to continue that support in the fiscal year (FY) 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

At this time of global economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever to invest in programs like basic education that spur growth and reduce poverty. No country has ever achieved sustained growth without achieving near universal primary education. In fact, each year of schooling increases individual wages by a worldwide average of about 10 percent. This global economic growth fueled by basic education is important because it is a key contributor to our own long-term economic security and stability.

A significant U.S. investment in international basic education also directly enhances our national security. In war-torn regions and fragile states, education enables children to make reasoned decisions about their lives and futures, and offers a path away from despair and hopelessness. Last year, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Commission on Smart Power found that "Education is the best hope of turning young people away from violence and extremism."

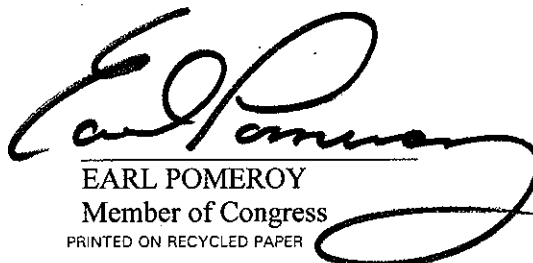
Perhaps most importantly, education actually saves lives. Education has been shown to lower child and maternal mortality rates, increase life expectancy, and significantly decrease vulnerability to AIDS and other deadly diseases. It also facilitates an understanding of, and ability to practice, basic elements of health, sanitation and child care.

The need for basic education is great. Of the 75 million children currently out of school, almost 40 million are in conflict-affected states, roughly half live in sub-Saharan Africa, and nearly three in five are girls. Every year, millions of children who do overcome these barriers to gaining access to education leave school before acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills. Failing to act now risks leaving an estimated 29 million children out of school by 2015, the internationally agreed upon goal for achieving education for all.

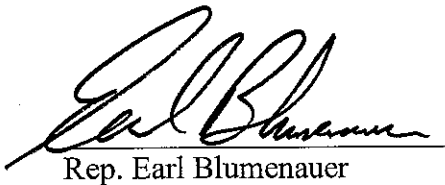
For these reasons, we strongly urge your Subcommittee to provide the maximum possible funding for basic education in the fiscal year 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

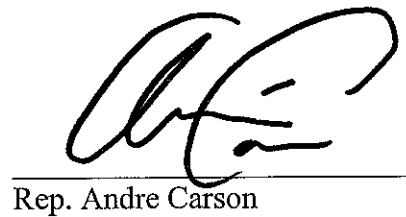
We appreciate your consideration of our request.

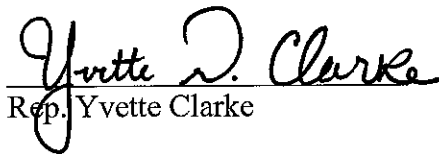
Sincerely,

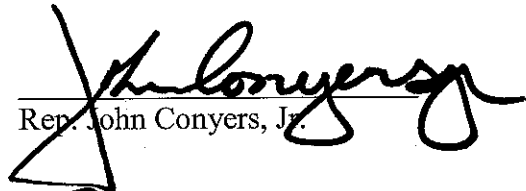


EARL POMEROY  
Member of Congress  
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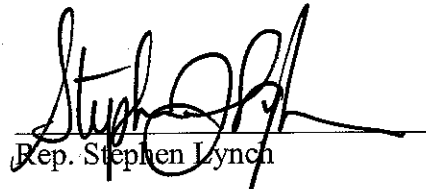
  
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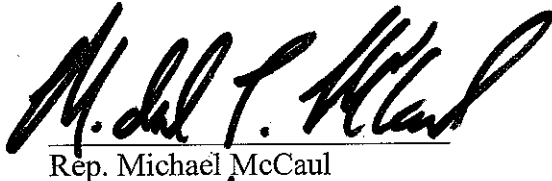
  
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Rep. Joe Courtney

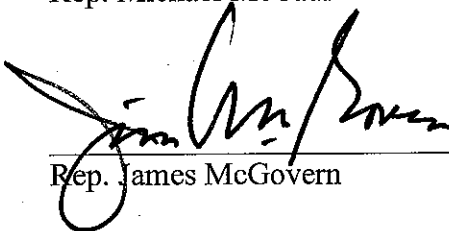
  
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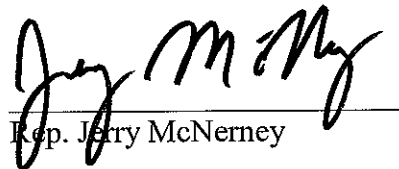
  
Rep. Rush Holt


  
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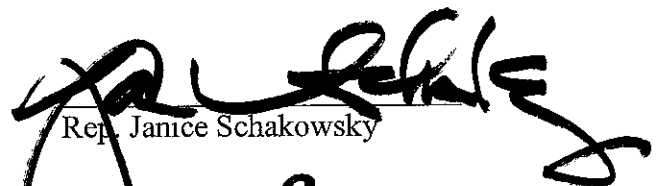
  
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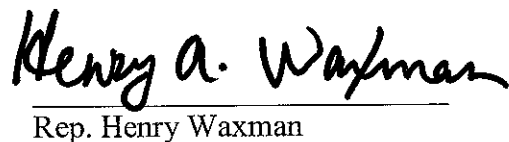
  
Rep. Jim Moran

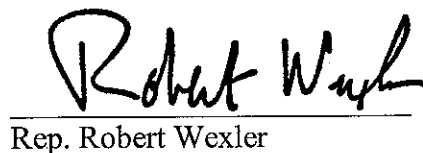
  
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